

- rate of about 0.1 to about 12 times said volume per day; and
- (iii) replacing the harvested culture medium containing the biomass with complex axenic aqueous culture medium, so as to maintain a continuous fermentation culture.
16. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ciliates belong to one of the taxonomic groups Holotricha, Peritricha, Spirotricha and Suctoria, Tetrahymena, Paramecium, Colpoda, Glaucoma, Parauronema, Engelmanniella, Stylonichia, Euplotes and Colpidium.
26. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the produced biomass is separated off from the harvested culture medium by a method selected from the group consisting of centrifugation, tangential filtration, microfiltration, sedimentation and flotation.
27. The fermentation process as claimed in claim 15 additionally comprising the step of extracting a biogenous substance selected from the group consisting of: peptides, proteins, enzymes, fatty acids, lipids, polysaccharides, nucleic acids, secondary metabolites and polymers from the produced biomass.

The amendments to the claims and specification are shown in bracket-underline format in Exhibit A, attached herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 15-27 remain pending. Claims 15, 16, 26 and 27 have been amended. Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in original claims 1-14, as well as throughout the specification. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has stated that claims 15-27 are free of the prior art and would be allowable upon resolution of all 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Rejection of claim 15